

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 8 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4-7 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Claim 3 is amended and claims 8 and 9 are added. No new matter is added.

I. Allowed Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 1 and 2 is appreciated. Claims 3, 8 and 9 are allowable for the reasons discussed below.

II. Specification

The Office Action requests that Cross-Reference To Related Document be inserted before "Background of the Invention" of the specification. The specification has been revised as requested.

The Office Action also objects to the Disclosure for two informalities. As the informalities are corrected, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also suggests a revision to the title of the application. The title is revised as requested.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,249,956 to Maeda et al. ("Maeda"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Maeda fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claim, as amended. For example, Maeda fails to disclose or suggest a production method of a sequentially joined-segment stator coil of the rotary electric machine, comprising *inter alia*...wherein one of each pair of the tines which is urged inwardly of the rings by the tip portion of the head of a corresponding one of the segments has a first chamfered surface to abut to the tip portion, and the other tine which is urged outward of the rings by the tip portion of the head of the corresponding one of the segments has a second chamfered surface

to abut to the tip portion, the first chamfered surface being greater in radius of curvature than the second chamfered surface, as recited in amended claim 3.

The Office Action alleges that the segment presser 16 that includes cylindrical projections 16a (see Fig. 5 of Maeda) corresponds to the tines recited in the rejected claim.. The projection 16a is disposed at a radially central portion of the turn portions 31a, 32a to hold the middle of the turn portions of the conductor segments 3, between the circumferentially opposite sides thereof to restrict the circumferential movement of the middle portions (col. 6, lines 17-25). The projection 16a does not hold the turn portions except at the radially middle portion of the turn portions 31a, 32a in the circumferential direction (col. 6, lines 35-38).

Even if the projections 16a are interpreted to correspond to the tines recited in the rejected claim, Maeda is silent regarding the additional description of a pair of tines having first and second chamfered surfaces and the first chamfered surface being greater in radius of curvature than the second chamfered surface. Furthermore, this structural feature of the tines recited in the rejected claim is not a mere matter of design choice as it extends a benefit beyond that of the applied reference. For example, such a structure of a first chamfered surface having a greater radius of curvature than the second chamfered surface enables a required length of the outer middle straight portion of the conductors to be deformed to be equal to that of the inner middle straight portions even when absolute values of angles of rotation of the rings are identical with each other, thereby preventing the outer middle straight portions from stretching the inner middle straight portions and the circumferential direction of the rings. This benefit is described in greater detail at least at page 38, line 16 – page 39, line 10 of the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

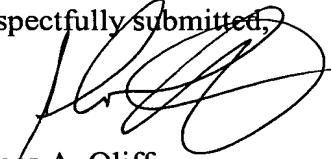
IV. New Claims

Claims 8 and 9 are allowable over the applied reference as Maeda fails to disclose or suggest a production method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said segments are broken down into a plurality of segment groups each of which is made up of sets of the segments arrayed in a circumferential direction of the rings, the segment groups being arrayed in a radius direction of the rings. Furthermore, Maeda fails to disclose or suggest a production method as set forth in claim 8, wherein each of the sets of the segments includes a small-sized segment and a large-sized segment which is placed to extend over the small-sized segment.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 8 and 9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John W. Fitzpatrick
Registration No. 41,018

JAO:JWF/ldg

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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